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Weekly Public Affairs Program

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 Caitlin M. Zaloom, PhD, Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University

The average annual price tag for attending a private, four-year American college is now nearly \$50,000. Prof. Zaloom led a study that found that paying for college is taking a toll on middle-class families in ways that are more profound and less appreciated than even the financial cost conveys. She said that shouldering the weight of paying for college is often seen by parents as a moral obligation to their children.

Issues covered:
Education
Personal Finance
Parenting

2. Bridget Freisthler, PhD, Professor of Social Work at Ohio State University

54 percent of adults who use marijuana in the United States are parents. Prof. Freisthler led a study that found that parents who use marijuana utilize more discipline techniques on their children on average than non-users, ranging from timeouts to, in some cases, physical abuse. She found that the same was true of alcohol users. She said that with the growing acceptance of marijuana in American society, users need to be aware that the drug affects numerous forms of behavior, including parenting.

Issues covered:
Substance Abuse
Child Abuse
Parenting

3. Tracy McCubbin, author of "Making Space, Clutter Free: The Last Book on Decluttering You'll Ever Need"

Ms. McCubbin talked about the value of teaching organization skills to children during back to school time. She offered numerous tips for parents to clear the clutter as kids start the new school year, including how to decide what to donate or discard, and the importance of an organized desk.

Issues covered:
Parenting
Education

